

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:OSM

APPROVED BY AF:APALMER

AF:MR.BLAKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041752

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, CG

SUBJECT: CIS

REF: KINSHASA 1557

1.L.SPENCER, PRESIDENT OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN INTERNATIONAL,
CALLED AF/C LATE FEB. 24 TO REPORT THAT M-K IS PUTTING
SNEL ON NOTICE THAT WORK ON INGA-SHABA LINE CANNOT
PROCEED WITHOUT FUNDS AND THAT, UNLESS DOLS 1.5 MILLION
DUE SINCE FEB. 4 IS PAID PROMPTLY AND CONTINUED FUNDING
IS ASSURED, LEVIHN HAS INSTRUCTIONS TEMPORARILY TO SUSPEND
ALL PROJECT WORK EXCEPT SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE
SERVICES (FULL TEXT SEPTTEL). LEVIHN IS HAND-CARRYING
MESSAGE FROM THE HAGUE FEB24/25 (KLMFLIGHT 591) AND
WILL DELIVER COPIES TO AMBASSADOR AND SNEL. IF NO
SATISFACTORY RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM SNEL BY FEB. 28, M-K
INTENDS FOLLOW UP WITH SECOND MESSAGE: "BECAUSE WE HAVE
NO OPERATING FUNDS, WE ARE SUSPENDING WORK AT CLOSE OF
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BUSINESS MARCH FIVE."

2. MESSAGE IS REGRETFUL IN TONE AND EXPRESSES HOPE FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE IN TIME TO AVERT LOSS OF PROJECT MOMENTUM AND COSTS OF SHUTDOWN AND SUBSEQUENT RESUMPTION OF WORK. SPENCER SAID THAT COSTS WOULD RUN INTO MILLIONS AND THAT RE-RECRUITMENT WOULD POSE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS IF

400 AMERICANS WORKING ON PROJECT WERE TERMINATED, WHICH MOST WOULD HAVE TO BE IF PROJECT WERE SHUT DOWN. M-K OBVIOUSLY WISHES AVOID THIS AND HOPES MESSAGE WILL SHAKE LOOSE FUNDING. ASKED THAT DEPT AND AMBASSADOR DO WHATEVER THEY COULD TO HELP. WE ASSURED HIM AMBASSADOR WOULD GIVE ALL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE, BUT SAID WE COULD VENTURE NO PREDICTION OF OUTCOME GIVEN ZAIRE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION. (CONVERSATION WITH SPENCER TOOK PLACE BEFORE REFTEL RECEIVED.) WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD M-K'S POSITION AND FELT TONE OF MESSAGE APPROPRIATE. WE DID NOT TRY TO DISSUADE M-K FROM DELIVERING MESSAGE. IF EMBASSY FEELS MESSAGE WOULD BE A MISTAKE, PLEASE ADVISE, SO THAT WE CAN MAKE CASE WITH SPENCER. SPENCER ASSUMED BUT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT LEVIHN WOULD SEE AMBASSADOR BEFORE DELIVERING MESSAGE TO SNEL; SUGGEST YOU INTERCEPT HIM UPON ARRIVAL KINSHASA IF YOU THINK MESSAGE SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED. KISSINGER

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